

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/500,224	MISAWA, TAKESHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Yogesh K. Aggarwal	2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 09/19/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a Fax with Chad Billings on December 16, 2005.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- a. Claim 1: line 8, change "surface of the communication section;" to "surface of the **infrared** communication section;"

- b. Claim 1: lines 9-12, change "wherein, after the protecting means is removed and the image data is taken out from the communication section, the communication section is once again covered by the protecting means, thereby resetting the infrared communication section." to "wherein, after the protecting means is removed and the image data is taken out from the **infrared** communication section, the **infrared** communication section is once again covered by the protecting means, thereby **returning the digital camera to its original state.**"

- c. Claim 7: lines 4-7, change "a removable protecting means which covers the communication section of the digital camera and is removed at times when the image data is output, thereby resetting the infrared communication section, the protecting means substantially contouring to the outer surface of the communication section" to "a removable protecting means which covers the **infrared** communication section of the digital camera and is removed at times when the image data is output, **and when the infrared communication section is once again**

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covered by the protecting means the digital camera is reset to it's original state, the
protecting means substantially contouring to the outer surface of the communication section.”

c. Claim 14: lines 4-7, change “a removable protecting cover which covers the communication section of the digital camera and is removed at times when the image data is output, thereby resetting the infrared communication section, the protecting cover substantially contouring to the outer surface of the communication section” to “a removable protecting cover which covers the **infrared** communication section of the digital camera and is removed at times when the image data is output, **and when the infrared communication section is once again covered by the protecting cover the digital camera is reset to it's original state, the** protecting cover substantially contouring to the outer surface of the communication section.”

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The following prior art shows the current state of the art to this patent application:

i. Allum (US Patent # 6,183,274) discloses a wireless electronic device (e.g. a telephone or laptop) comprising an external interface port (101) through which the phone unit can be connected to for example a power source or a computerized device (col. 4 lines 1-10). Although Allum discloses a cover for connector 101 for external interfaces, the reference does not explicitly teach a cover which covers an **infrared** communication section and is removed at times when the image data is output, **and when the infrared communication section is once again covered by the protecting cover the digital camera is reset to it's original state.**

ii. Sugita et al. (US Patent # 5,870,636) discloses a range finding camera having an infrared window 6 that is covered by a sliding cover 2. Sugita discloses a cover for an infrared

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communication section but fails to disclose a removable protecting cover which covers an communication section **and is removed at times when the image data is output.**

iii. Palmer (US Patent # 5,804,829) discloses a transparent cover for LEDs 34 used for infrared transmission (col. 4 lines 25+) but fails to **disclose a removable cover that is removed at times when the image data is output.**

As seen from the discussion of the prior art, removable covers are known for infrared communication ports. Prior art in combination fails to suggest “a removable protecting cover which covers the **infrared** communication section of the digital camera and is removed at times when the image data is output, **and when the infrared communication section is once again covered by the protecting cover the digital camera is reset to it’s original state**, the protecting cover substantially contouring to the outer surface of the communication section”.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yogesh K. Aggarwal whose telephone number is (571) 272-7360. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00AM-5:30PM.


4. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571)-272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YKA

December 22, 2005



DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER